

# The LOVER.

By MARMADUKE MYRTLE, *Gent.*

*On Rows of homely Turf they sat to see,  
Crown'd with the Wreaths of every common Tree.  
There, while they sit in Rustick Majesty,  
Each Lover has his Mistress in his Eye.*

*Art of Love.*

Tuesday, March 9. 1714.

**C**orrespondents begin to grow numerous, and indeed I cannot but be pleased with the Intelligence, which one of them sends me; from the Novelty of it. The Gentleman is a very great Antiquary, and tells me he has several Pieces by him, which are Letters from the Sabine Virgins to their Parents, Friends and Lovers in their own Country, after the famous Rape which laid the Foundation of the Roman People. He thinks these very proper Memorials for one who writes an History under the Title of *Lover*. He has also Answers to those Letters, and pretends *Quid* took the Design of his Epistles from having had these very Papers in his Hands. This you'll say is a very great Curiosity, and for that reason I have resolved to give the Reader the following Account, which was written by a Sabine Lady to her Mother, within ten Days after that memorable mad Wedding, and is as follows.

*Dear Mother,*

**T**HIS is to acquaint you, that I am better pleased with a very good-natured Husband in this little Village here of *Rome*, than ever I was in all the State and Plenty at your House. When he first seized me, I must confess he was very rough and ungentle, but he grows much tamer every Day than other, and I do not question but we shall very soon be as orderly and sober a Couple as you and my Father. My Cousin *Lydia* no body knows off certainly, but the poor Girl had two or three Husbands in the Rout, and as she is very pretty, they say all contend for her still. *Romulus* has appointed a Day to fix the disputed Marriages; but it is very remarkable, that several can neither agree to live together, or to part. For if one proposes it, that is taken so mortally ill, that the other will insist upon staying, at least till the other consents to stay, and then the Party who denied demands a Divorce, to be revenged

(Price Two Pence.)

of the same Inclination in the other. Thus they say, they cannot consent to cohabit till they are upon an equality in having each refused the other. This you must believe will make great perplexity; but *Romulus*, who expects a War, will have great regard to let none who do not like each other stay together, and makes it a Maxim, that a Robust Race is not to be expected to descend from Wranglers. Pray let me know how my Lover, who proposed himself to you, bears the loss of me. I must confess I could not but resent his being indifferent on this Occasion, after all the Vows and Protestations he made when you left us together. I don't question but he will make jests upon the Poverty of the Romans; but they threaten here, that if you are not very well contented with what has passed, they will make you a Visit with Swords in their Hands, and demand Portions with your Daughters. When I was made Prize by my good Man, who is remarkably Valiant, for which reason they left me undisputed in his Hands, he soon took off my first Terrors from my Observation of that his Preheminence, and a certain determinate Behaviour, with a dying Fondness that glowed in his Eyes. I told him from what I saw other People suffer, I could not but think my Lot very fortunate, that I had fallen into his Hands, and begged of him he would indulge my Curiosity in going with me to some Eminence, and observe what befel the rest of my Friends and Countrywomen. He did so, and from the Place we stood, I observed what passed in all the hurlyburly, he observing to me the Quality and Merit of the Husbands, I giving to him an account of the Wives. How strangely Truth will out! *Hispulla*, as I saw, when they were struggling for her, has crooked Legs; *Cloe* laughed so violently when she was carried off, that I observed her Lover, as pretty as she is, hardly thought it a Purchase; while *Dickinna*, as homely as she is, by muffling

muffling her Face and shrieking, was contended  
 for by twenty Rivals; that arch Creature *Flora*  
 has escaped by offering her self; as soon as she  
 perceived what was intended, she got upon a lit-  
 tle Hillock and cried out, *who will have me, who*  
*will have me, bear I am come take me.* This for-  
 wardness made every Man think her a Common  
 Woman, and the Flirt is now safe under the Pro-  
 tection of *Romulus*, as a Woman not yet disposed  
 of; but when her Character and Innocence is  
 known, it is thought the will fall to the Lott of  
*Marcus*, for his generous Behaviour to *Thalestrina*,  
 who you know was betrothed to *Cincinatus*;  
*Marcus* and *Cincinatus* have long been mortal  
 Enemies, and met each other in Skirmishes of our  
 different Nations, wherein sometimes one, some-  
 times the other has been successful. This noble  
 Virgin, whose Beauty and Virtue distinguished  
 her above all the *Sabine* Youth, fell into the  
 Hands of *Marcus*. Our Apartments here are not  
 very lofty, and Arbors and Grottoes, strewed with  
 Rushes, Herbage and Flowers, make up the best  
 Bridal Beds among the *Romans*; to such an Abode  
 as this *Marcus* dragged the lovely *Thalestrina*.  
 This People are not polite enough, especially on  
 this Occasion, to express their Passion by Civility  
 and ceremonious Behaviour; when *Thalestrina*  
 was convinced of *Marcus's* immediate Purpose,  
 she fell into a Swoon at his Feet, and with a  
 Sigh in her Fall cried, *Oh Cincinatus!*

*Marcus* at the suddenness of the Accident, and the  
 Name of his Enemy and Rival for Military Glory,  
 was surpris'd with many different Passions and Re-  
 sentments, which all ought to have given way to the  
 Care of *Thalestrina*; but in a Nation of Men only, and  
 on the first Day wherein they had a Woman in their  
 Commonwealth, he was much at a loss how to  
 be assitant to her; but as he saw Life revive in  
 her, Nature and good Sense dictated rather to  
 absent himself, than be present at the many Distor-  
 tions of her Person in coming to her self. He  
 retired, but entered the Place again when  
 he thought the might be enough recovered to be  
 capable of receiving what he had to say to her.

He approached as she leaned against a Tree  
 which supported the Bower, and delivered him-  
 self in these Terms.

*Madam*, The Passion you were lately in, your  
 noble Form, and the Person you called upon in  
 your Distress, give me to understand you are  
*Thalestrina*. I am *Marcus*, and have no De-  
 bate with *Cincinatus*, but on account of Glory;  
 were he a Stranger to me, your Passion for him  
 should secure you; were he my Friend, you  
 should command all in my Power, in spite of all  
 the Charms I see in you; and as he is my Enemy,  
 I scorn to wound him in a Circumstance where-  
 in he is not capable of making a Defence. You  
 have common Humanity, and the Generosity of  
 an Enemy for your Safeguard; I will return you  
 to *Cincinatus*; and I see, by the beautiful Grati-  
 tude which I now read in your Face, you will  
 represent this Conduct to the Advantage of the  
*Romans*, of whom there is not one who does not  
 sacrifice his private Passions to the Service of his

Country. I assure you, I know not whether it  
 is more beholden to me this Day for the Offer-  
 ing which I make of my Anger, or my Love.

He did not put her to the Pain of long Acknow-  
 ledgments of so great a Bounty as that of her very  
 self, but conducted her into the Presence of *Romulus*,  
 and told him, with a very joyous Air, he had re-  
 signed a Fine Woman from his Bed, to purchase  
 a Brave Man to his Country.

I know *Cincinatus* so well, that I doubt not  
 but he will be a Friend to *Rome*, and interpose  
 his good Offices for a Peace between us and the  
*Sabines*: I hope all will join in the same Mediat-  
 ion, who have Children here, for I already know  
 not to which Party my Heart would wish  
 Success, if a War should ensue; for I find a Wife  
 is no longer a Daughter, or any other Name,  
 which comes in Competition with that Relation:  
 But hope things will so end, that I may have the  
 Pleasure to be the faithful Consort of an honest  
 Man, without interfering with any other Chara-  
 cter, especially that of,

*Madam,*

*Your Dutiful Child,*

*Miramantis;*

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